

Missouri Adoption Subsidy & Subsidized Guardianship Programs

The Goal of Adoption Subsidy & Subsidized Guardianship –

In accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Children's Division believes every child has the right to a stable and permanent family. Adoption is the most desired outcome for children who cannot be reunified with their families. Subsidized Guardianship also offers children the opportunity to live as a part of a stable and permanent family who is also a relative of the child. Subsidized Guardianship may be utilized in cases where adoption may not be a possibility for the child. Subsidy services are available to support families adopting or providing guardianship to children.

What is Adoption Subsidy & Subsidized Guardianship? –

Subsidy is a collaborative agreement between the DSS Children's Division staff and the adoptive/guardianship family to assist in meeting the needs of the child. Financial, medical and support services may be available to the adopting/guardianship family through subsidy until the child is 18, or in extraordinary circumstances, age 21.

Child Eligibility –

Children must have been in the custody of the DSS Children's Division, Division of Youth Services, Department of Mental Health, or a licensed child placing agency. This is the minimum requirement, other requirements also apply.

Guardian Eligibility –

Only qualified relatives are eligible to receive subsidized guardianship services for their relative children. By Missouri statute, qualified relatives include grandparents, aunts, uncles, adult siblings and first cousins to the child.

Basic Subsidy Services –

If the family adopting or receiving guardianship of a child requests assistance, the following services are available:

Monthly maintenance at the current foster care rate:

- Cash payments, which cannot exceed the rate, which would have been paid if the child had remained in out-of-home care. This payment is to assist the family with day-to-day living expenses for the child such as food, clothing and shelter.

Medicaid:

- Payment for medical, dental or other care can be obtained from the Missouri MC+ program as a



supplement to the adoptive/ guardianship families' private medical or dental insurance plan; and

- May assist with medical, medically necessary dental or other care for the adoptive child in cases where no private medical or dental insurance exists.

Daycare Payment for Services:

- Available to working families for children up to age 13.
- Daycare costs are provided at the rate locally contracted by the Children's Division.

Other Subsidy Services –

Additional services may be available based on the individual needs of the child. Documentation of need for services is necessary by appropriate professionals.

Support Services:

- treatment services;
- crisis intervention;
- respite;
- rehabilitative services; and
- other services as identified by the needs of the child.

Nonrecurring expenses:

- legal fees;
- pre-placement visit costs

This brochure is designed as a quick reference to provide basic information about subsidy. Please contact your local Children's Division office for more information.

**See Missouri children available
for adoption on the Internet at:**
www.dss.state.mo.us/dfs/adopt/index.htm



Missouri Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103
www.dss.state.mo.us/dfs

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